

The background is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses, with the number '32' visible on the front of the lead bus. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, desks, chairs, and various educational materials. A white diagonal line separates the two images.

Superintendents Webcast

March 12, 2024



Agenda

Welcome and Updates

Robin Fields Kinney, Interim Commissioner of Education

Kentucky Department of Education Updates

Jennifer Ginn, KDE Director of Communications

Cybersecurity for Superintendents

David Couch, Associate Commissioner, KDE Office of Education Technology

Robert Hackworth, KDE Chief Information Security Officer, Office of Education Technology

Legislative Update

Brian Perry, Policy Advisor, KDE Director of Government Relations

Questions and Answers

KDE Leadership

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top-left portion shows a line of yellow school buses, with the word 'SCHOOL BUS' visible on the front of the lead bus. The bottom-left portion shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. Several desks and chairs are arranged in the room.

Welcome and Updates

Robin Fields Kinney
Interim Commissioner of Education



Commissioner's Search Update

- Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Interview Committee met March 7-8. Three finalists were selected:
- **Buddy Berry, Ed.D.:** Berry has been serving as superintendent of Eminence Independent Schools since 2010. He began his teaching career as a high school mathematics teacher in Owen County and Jefferson County.
- **Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D.:** Fletcher serves as the superintendent of Lawrence County Schools, a position he has held since July 2014. Prior to this role, he served as a part-time faculty member at Asbury University, and as a principal, assistant principal and mathematics teacher in Martin County.
- **Jim Flynn, Ed.D.:** Flynn currently serves as the executive director of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, a position he has held since 2019. He served as the superintendent of Simpson County Schools from 2003 to 2019.



Commissioner's Search Update (continued)

- The finalists will be interviewed by the full KBE on March 18-19 in Louisville.
- The board hopes to have a new commissioner named and submitted to the Kentucky Senate for consideration of confirmation by the end of the month.
- Read more on [KDE's 2023-2024 Commissioner Search webpage](#).



Two Kentucky Schools Named 2023 National ESEA Distinguished Schools

- The National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators named two Kentucky schools as National ESEA Distinguished Schools during its national conference on Feb. 7-10. The two are among 65 schools nationwide to receive the honor.
- Luhr Elementary School (Jefferson County) was recognized for exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years.
- Hunter Hills Elementary School (Laurel County) was recognized for excellence in serving special populations of students.
- [Read more about the Distinguished Schools on Kentucky Teacher.](#)



Luhr Elementary School



*Hunter Hills
Elementary School*

Sarah Wilder Named the 2023 Kentucky History Teacher of the Year by Gilder Lehrman Institute

- Sarah Wilder, a 5th-grade social studies teacher at W.R. McNeill Elementary (Bowling Green Independent), was named the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History 2023 Kentucky History Teacher of the Year award.
- Educators are nominated for the award by a colleague, parent or student. Winners are selected by a committee of educators and education professionals in their state.
- Wilder received a \$1,000 prize, a core archive of American history books, Gilder Lehrman educational materials, and the opportunity to attend and be recognized for the award at the Kentucky Historical Society's annual History Awards.
- She also became one of 53 finalists for the 2023 National History Teacher of the Year Award.
- [Read more about Wilder on Kentucky Teacher.](#)



Sarah Wilder

Visiting Schools and Districts

- Thank you to all superintendents who have invited the commissioner to visit their district.
- On March 11, the commissioner visited the Kentucky School for the Blind.



The background is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses with 'SCHOOL BUS' written on the front. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, desks, chairs, and colorful balloons. A white diagonal line separates the two images.

KDE Updates

Jennifer Ginn

KDE Director of Communications



Competitive Grants from KDE

FY24 Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Fund Mini-Grant

- Grant applications due: **March 19** by 4 p.m. ET
- Award Amount: \$40,000
- Matching Funds Requirement: No

Funding to support K-3 students in reaching proficiency in reading and writing through the purchase of high-quality instructional materials aligned to the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing*

FY24 Preschool Quality Partnership Grant

- Grant applications due: **March 22** by 4 p.m. ET
- Award Amount: up to \$300,000
- Matching Funds Requirement: No

Funding to support full-day, high-quality early childhood services for 3- and 4-year-old preschool children. The goal is to expand access to or enhance the quality of existing programs to meet the unique and unmet needs of children and families in communities across the state.

Competitive Grants from KDE (continued)

FY24 McKinney-Vento Homeless Children Education Program Grant

- Grant applications due: **April 18 by 4 p.m. ET**
- Award Amount: Varies
- Matching Funds Requirement: No

KDE's Office of Continuous Improvement and Support is issuing a Request for Applications from local educational agencies to develop and implement programs that facilitate the enrollment, attendance and success of homeless children and youth in school.

More information about grants can be found on the [KDE Competitive Grants webpage](#) or by emailing jennifer.bryant@education.ky.gov.

KDE Seeking Exemplary Educators by April 15

- On March 15, KDE will open the recommendation form for the **Kentucky Exemplary Educators Program (KEEP)**. Additional information will be included in the Commissioner's Monday Message and posted on KDE's website.
- Individuals may recommend up to three certified teachers, teacher specialists, assistant and/or principals currently serving in Kentucky public schools for the program.
- Selected educators will receive a certificate of excellence from KDE. They also may be considered for other recognitions and opportunities, including invitations to sit on advisory councils and committees.
- Individuals should demonstrate:
 - Exceptional educational talent;
 - Exemplary educational accomplishments and leadership beyond the classroom;
 - Engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues and the community; and
 - Strong, long-range potential for professional and policy leadership.



Recommendations will be accepted through **April 15, 2024**.

For more information, email awards@education.ky.gov or contact GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Ph.D., at (502) 564-2000, ext. 4616.

Feedback Sought on Draft *KAS for Visual and Performing Arts*



- The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is seeking feedback on the [draft *Kentucky Academic Standards \(KAS\) for the Visual and Performing Arts*](#).
- To provide feedback before the April 4 deadline, please use the [public feedback comment form](#).
- Questions on this process can be directed to standards@education.ky.gov.

KBE Seeking Applicants for KHSAA Board of Control At-large Position

- The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), through KDE, is seeking an individual to serve on the Kentucky High School Athletic Association's (KHSAA's) [Board of Control](#) to fill an at-large position that will become vacant on June 30.
- All interested individuals are encouraged to submit a letter of interest, a resume and a minimum of two written letters of recommendation to the KDE.
- The KBE appointed Board of Control member must not be a current employee of a Kentucky public school district.
- The deadline for applications is March 30.
- Materials should be mailed to Todd Allen, General Counsel, Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, KY 40601, or emailed to Todd.Allen@education.ky.gov.

The background is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses with 'SCHOOL BUS' written on the front. The bottom left shows a classroom with desks, chairs, and a blue wall decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. A white diagonal line separates the image from the text on the right.

Cybersecurity for Superintendents

David Couch, KDE Associate Commissioner,
Robert Hackworth, KDE Chief Information Security
Officer, Office of Education Technology



Legislative Update

Brian Perry, Policy Advisor,
KDE Director of Government Relations

2024 Regular Session

General Schedule

- The 2024 regular session began on Jan. 2;
- The veto recess is March 29 through April 9;
- The final two legislative days (#29 & 30) are April 12 and 15 (sine die).
- [Regular Session Calendar](#)

Committees

- Education Committees and Appropriations and Revenue Committees are of the most interest
- All are streamed live via the [KET \(Kentucky Educational Television\) feed](#) or [LRC's YouTube channel](#).
- [Full committee schedule](#)

Budget Process

- Governor's proposal is House Bill (HB) 114
- House's is HB 6
- Governor has line-item veto power in the budget bill, which can be overridden with a simple majority vote in each chamber.

Senate Bills of Interest

- Senate Bill (SB) 2: School safety and student mental health
- SB 8: Kentucky Board of Education elected instead of appointed.
- SB 11: Amends KRS 610.345 to require notice to schools prior to filing of a public offense petition against a child in certain cases.
 - Reported favorably; in the Regular Orders of the Day for Feb. 13
- SB 18: Changes to school bus specifications
 - Passed 38-0; has not been assigned in the House
- SB 38: Free feminine hygiene products for elementary and secondary students
- SB 40: Kentucky Proud School Match Program
- SB 52: Artificial intelligence in education
- SB 66: Concealed deadly weapons
- SB 93: Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging

Senate Bills (Page 2)

- SB 95: Requires public schools to provide reasonable accommodations to a lactating student
- SB 114: Modifies the types of school facilities where weapons are prohibited
- SB 120: Prohibits a public agency from using public funds for lobbying activity or to employ or enter into a contract with a lobbyist.
- SB 135: Vaccine requirements
- SB 165: Removes requirements for using a Social Security number as an identifier.
- SB 169: Establishes a process to recall a member of a local board of education
- SB 170: Local boards of education membership
- SB 171: Removal of a superintendent by a local board
- SB 192: Career and technical education funding distribution
- SB 210: Nonresident enrollment
- SB 265: Option 7 changes

Senate Bills (Page 3)

- SB 274/279: Allows members of the Teachers' Retirement System to recover up to 10 unpaid days that were missed to observe religious holidays
- SB 291: CROWN Act
- SB 295: Vaccinations
- SB 315: Directs school districts and public schools to act to protect Jewish students from credible threats of violence or violence motivated by antisemitism
- SB 336: Kentucky Women's Bill of Rights
- SB 338: Directs each local board of education to designate a traceable communication system that shall be the exclusive means for school district personnel to communicate electronically with students
- SB 358: Constitutional amendment related to educational funding
- SB 360: Automatic enrollment in an AP courses
- SB 377: Local board of education cannot appoint the superintendent as secretary to the board

House Bills

- HB 2: Constitutional amendment on education funding
- HB 22: Removes the requirement for medical oversight of an automated external defibrillators (AED) program
 - Passed House 87-0; assigned to Senate Education
- HB 96: Moment of silence and reflection at the start of the school day
 - Passed House 79-17; not assigned in Senate
- HB 119: Allows participation in a public school interscholastic extracurricular activity by an at-home private school student
- HB 162: Numeracy
 - Reported favorably
- HB 208: Constitutional amendment related to school funding
- HB 225: Education clean-up bill
- HB 227: Provides a merger process for contiguous school districts

House Bills (Page 2)

- HB 245: Removes expected family income from the selection criteria for the teacher scholarship
- HB 275: Teacher misconduct
 - Passed House 95-0; has not been assigned in Senate
- HB 300: Process and procedures for receiving and processing a complaint against a certificate holder
- HB 304: Parental rights
- HB 346: Requires a school district to adopt health curricula that includes human growth and development instruction that meets specific criteria
- HB 372: Relating to educational cooperatives
- HB 377: Teacher recruitment and retention
 - Reported favorably
- HB 387: Substitute teacher certification
 - Reported favorably

House Bills (Page 3)

- HB 446: Requires local school boards to adopt a transportation services policy
- HB 447: Transportation via passenger vehicles
- HB 464: Codifies HB 678 (2022)
- HB 471: Allows the use of military orders as proof of residency for enrollment or course registration in a school and prohibit in-person enrollment or course registration when prevented due to official military duties
- HB 499: CTE funding distribution
- HB 509: Access to the records and meetings of public agencies
- HB 564: Tax credit for qualified education expenses
- HB 571: Teacher professional development
- HB 611: Truancy

House Bills (Page 4)

- HB 612: Anti three-cueing system
- HB 694: One-time payments to school district employees
- HB 695: Establishes the Adaptive Kindergarten Readiness pilot project
- HB 719: Physical education graduation requirement
- HB 722: Support systems for English learners
- HB 748: Deletes outdated language for the calculation of average daily attendance
- HB 767: Internet safety instruction for children

House Bills (Page 5)

- HB 769: Allows for alternative teacher certification through a state-approved local training program provided by a local district, group of districts or educational cooperative
- HB 784: Process for creation of an independent school district
- HB 800: Requires KDE to post school district employee salary information on the department's website annually
- HB 825: Audit of KDE
- HB 826: Directs school districts and public schools to act to protect Jewish students from credible threats of violence or violence motivated by antisemitism
- HB 828: Teacher certification, new teacher mentoring program
- HB 831: Political spending by public school districts
- HB 837: Allows school property to be utilized for teacher and employee housing

Resolutions of Interest

- HCR 43: Re-establishes the Early Childhood Education Task Force.
 - Findings and recommendations due to LRC by Dec 1, 2024
- HCR 51: Autism in Education Task Force; directs the task force to study autism supports and services provided to K-12 students by Kentucky public schools.
- HCR 60: Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) Task Force.
 - Findings due to LRC by Dec 1, 2024.
- HCR 81: Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force. Same as SCR 142.
- HCR 83: Teacher Red Tape Reduction Task Force
- HCR 111: School District Consolidation Task Force
- HCR 112: DEI Economic Impact Task Force
- HCR 120: Homeschool Task Force

Questions

- [Brian Perry](#), Director of Government Relations, Office of the Commissioner

The background is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses with "SCHOOL BUS" written on the front. The bottom left shows a classroom with desks, chairs, and a blue wall decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures.

Question and Answer Session

(Submit Questions in Teams)

KDE Leadership

 Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

The background is a collage of two images. The top-left portion shows a line of yellow school buses, with the word 'SCHOOL BUS' visible on the front of the lead bus. The bottom-right portion shows a classroom with blue walls, several desks and chairs, and colorful balloons (purple, pink, yellow, and green) hanging from the ceiling.

Next Superintendents Webcast

Thursday, April 11, 2024

2-4 p.m. ET



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION